

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 51 are pending in this application. Applicants respectfully note that claims 49-51 were newly added with the preliminary amendment filed on October 13, 2004.

Claims 1 to 48 are subject to restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 as follows:

Group I. Claims 1-18 drawn to a method for detecting ketosteroids comprising reacting a sample with a sulfonhydrazide, classified in class 436, subclass 140.

Group II. Claims 19-29 drawn to a method for enhancing positive ion mode electrospray ionization efficiency of a carbonyl compound comprising reacting a carbonyl compound with a sulfonhydrazide, classified in class 436, subclass 173.

Group III. Claims 30-42 drawn to a method for separating and detecting ketosteroids present in a biological sample, classified in class 436, subclass 161.

Group IV. Claims 43-48 drawn to a method for detecting ketosteroids in a sample comprising reacting the sample with a carbonyl protecting reagent, classified in class 436, subclass 176.

Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the subject matter of Group I without traverse.

Applicants also note that because claims 49-51 depend from claim 43, they are most likely in Group IV. Accordingly, claims 19-51 have been withdrawn without prejudice from consideration.

Accordingly, upon entry of these amendments, claims 1-18 will remain pending upon entry of these amendments. No new matter is entered upon entry of these amendments.

Applicants request the Examiner to examine these claims at his earliest convenience.

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PATENT

If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at
(215) 564-8969.

Respectively submitted,

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